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## The Cover

The Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge

The need for a crossing of the Cooper River and Town Creek had been longstanding. The solution came in 1928 when the dream of Charlestonian John P. Grace and others of building a Cooper River Bridge materialized.

The bridge, later to be named the Grace Memorial Bridge, was built in just 17 months. In 1966, a new bridge over the Cooper River, parallel to the Grace Bridge was opened to traffic, and dedicated in honor of Chief Highway Commissioner Silas N. Pearman.

In 1995, the two bridges were determined to be functionally obsolete. S.C. State Senator Arthur Ravenel, Jr., helped to establish the S.C. Infrastructure Bank and worked with local, state, and federal officials to create partnerships that helped fund the new bridge.

The construction contract for the Cooper River Bridge Replacement Project was signed in July 2001. The dedication and opening date for the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge was Saturday, July 16, 2005. The diamond towers of the Ravenel Bridge have been named the John P. Grace Tower and the Silas N. Pearman Tower as a remembrance of these men and the bridges that served Charleston.

Adapted from "Cooper River Bridge" S.C. Dept. of Transportation Photograph courtesy of S.C. Dept. of Transportation Norman Walsh, Photographer

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